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THE OBSERVATOR.

Mercurius Politicus *his Danger of the* Church *further Consider'd. The Behaviour of the* Tacking Clergy. *The occasion of their Scandal. Of* Burgess-Clergymen. *The* Country-mans *Complaint against the* Rehearsal.

From Saturday November the 17th, to Wednesday November the 21st, 1705.

Country-m. MAster *Observator*, you must follow and trace the *Politick Mercury*; that Paper is written on purpose to foment Divisions, and his plausible pretence of the *Churches* Danger from the *Abuse* of the *Clergy*, is taking with those that are not quick-sighted enough to discover the Snake in the Grass, and to see the real Design of that Amusement; but still we must keep to the distinction he makes, and that tho' he mentions the *Inferiour Clergy* in general, he means only the *Tacking High-Flying Clergy*, who have been justly Recriminated upon; and indeed are Enemies to the *Peace* of the Realm.

Obs. Honest *Country-man*, thou takest the thing Right, and I wish every Country-man in *England* had as Just Conceptions of things, then there would be no need of my Writing. The *Superior Clergy*, I mean the *Metropolitan* of *England*, and the *Bishops*, are Gentlemen of such *Learning* and *Piety*, the like no Age has produc'd, and who will remain in History an Ornament to our *Church*: These great Personages have the good Will, the good Wishes, and the Prayers of all good Men; and would the *Inferior Clergy* imitate the Pious and Noble Pattern of their Dioceſans, they would have the like Esteem.

'Tis in vain for these Men to Suggest, that the Sacred Function is aim'd at, when we Paint the *Inferiour Clergy* in their proper Colours, and shew the *Tacking Wolves* stript from the *Shepherds Habit*. The Office is never the worse for the Mis-behaviour of the Officers. And 'tis Folly to say, That we Reflect on the Function, when we Reflect on the Abuse of it by Men that are a Scandal to it.

I shall confine my self to the two general Heads I have made use of already, and shall prove, That the *Church* is in no Danger from the pretended Abuse of the *Inferiour Clergy*. 1. Either from the *Queen*, or 2. From Her *People*.

The *Queen* is so far from Abusing them, that She has done more towards their Encouragement than any of Her Predecessors. I wish I had by me the Addresses of the *Clergy* to Her Majesty, on the Account of Her Pious Donation to the *Church*, which they, not long since, so highly Applauded; and told Her Majesty from the Pulpit, that all our Successes in War, by Sea and Land, was but the Return of Heaven for that unprecedented Charity of Her Majesty to the *Inferiour Clergy*.

And after this, to have the *Faction* in their *Memorials*, and other *Libels*, to Reflect on Her Majesty, as if Her *Zeal* for the *Church* is abated, is an Affront offered to Injur'd Majesty, that no good *Englishman* can put up. Because Her Majesty has given them so large a share of Her Royal Bounty, do they expect yet larger Additions to it? Are they like the Barren Womb, or the Grave, that always cry give! give! And are never contented? What! would they have Her Majesties Crown, and the Appointments for the Support of it? These Men crave more than a Princess can in Conscience Grant. And if the Royal Bounty be not lavish'd to the *Clergy*, then, forsooth, the Royal Zeal for the *Church* is abated.

Nor have Her Majesties Subjects, in the least manner, Abus'd the *Inferiour Clergy*; 'tis true, the People have conceived a just Indignation against some of them, on the Account of their Behaviour at the late *Elections*, which really render'd the *Function* Scandalous; when they became the Heads and Ring-leaders of *Riots*, and Opposed Vehemently the Queens Friends; and descended to so mean a Step, as to be made *Freemen* of *Corporations*, and to Vote as *Traders*; a thing inconsistent with their *Function*, and contrary to the *Constitution* of *England*.

We have strange Stories, *Country-man*, of the *Churches Danger*. The *Universities* too are Abused, and render'd *Ignominious*. By whom, pray? By those that come from 'em; and instead of Preaching the *Doctrines* of *Peace*, Sow *Strife* and *Contention* throughout the Kingdom.

What have you and I, *Country-man*, to do with the *Universities*? Or what have the *Universities* to do with us? We can better employ our time, than in Capping of *Verses*, and Playing at *Crambo*. Let 'em Deal in their *Genius* and *Species*, Feed on *Hebrew Roots*, and Drink *Water-Gruel*, 'till their Bodies are as Lean as their Understandings. We'll eat our *Beef* and *Pudding* and drink *October*, pay the Queen Her Taxes, and pray for Her Success. We are Men, and not Boys, we are not under *Pupillage*, and affraid of *Pedagogues*, let those that are under their Care pay 'em Respect; we have nothing to do with 'em.

Country-m. But, Master, they say that the *Church* is in Danger from the Disrespect that is shown the *Convocation*. Pray, Sir, what are those People?

Obs. The lower House of *Convocation* you mean, for the upper House has all the Respect imaginable paid by the People; but you ask me a difficult Question about the Authority and Power of the *Convocation*, that is what they have been a long time Disputing, and han't yet Determin'd; they may, when they are agreed among themselves, propose to the *Parliament* what *Laws* are Necessary to be made for the Security of the *Protestant Religion*; and if they Sit to do Business, since they have Chosen so Able and Learned a *Prolocutor*, I am in great hopes some effectual Remedy will be found out against *BLASPHEMY*.

I'll let nothing pass out of my Head that may be improv'd for the good of the Publick. The *Universities* have large Endowments, which

I fancy may be better Employ'd for the Publick Good than at preſent. Let you and I Vote 'em Uſeleſs.

Country-m. With all my Heart, Maſter.

Obſ. Begin then to ſhow your Reaſon for ſo doing, 'tis not with us as 'tis with other People, the Beau Writers ſerve up the *Quelque Choſes* of Words; but we muſt find the People Subſtanſtial Food, or elſe we ſhall be call'd *Blockheads*.

Country-m. Then, Maſter, my Opinion is this, that the *Univerſities* are uſeful. Tho' I am no *Scholard*, yet I have a great Eſteem for *Learning*, 'tis what I want, and what I wiſh for, Maſter, I am not for Deſtroying the *Varſities*, but I am for Regulating them: I would have 'em Breed up the Young Frie in the fear of *God*; I would have 'em Teach their Pupils to be more Mannerly, and to Pay a greater Deference to the *Queen*, I would have 'em never meddle with *Politicks*, but, like Paſtors of the Flock, learn to Preach *Chriſt*, and Him Crucify'd, to be Examples of *Piety* and *Godlineſs* to the People, over whoſe Souls they have the Care: I would have 'em ſend Us Men into the *Churches*, that are Endow'd with the Spirit of *Peace*, that don't come into their *Pariſhes* as *Sampſons Foxes* came into the *Corn*, with *Firebrands* in their Tails; to Open, and not to Heal our *Diviſions*. If the *Varſities* will do this for Us, I'll thank 'em Heartily, and wiſh they may Flouriſh.

Obſ. But, *Country-man*, I fancy the Practice of the *Burgeſs-Clergy* has given Us a *Uſeful* hint that the *Univerſities* are *Uſeleſs*. As for Example, I can put my Son an Apprentice to a *Burgeſs-Clergyman*; when he has Served Seven Years Apprenticeſhip to his Maſter, he ſhall be Free, and Set up a *Miniſters-Shop*. Now, I have a deſign to put thy Son *Tom* Prentice to one of theſe *Parſons*, and then he'll be doubly Qualify'd to ſerve either the *Church* or the *State*: If he ben't in Love with the *Gown*, he may lay it aſide, and take up the *Leathern Apron*; and if he can't Cobble *Divinity* he may Cobble *Shoes*; he may be a *Tranſlator*, tho' he does not underſtand one Word of *Latin*.

Country-m. Maſter, I have but one String to my Bow, that's *Huſbandry*; but I am reſolved our *Tom* ſhall have two Strings to his Bow: And, Maſter, who knows but our *Tom*, being thus doubly Qualify'd, may at the ſame time be *Major* of the *Town*, and *Parſon* of the *Pariſh*. And, Maſter, who knows but he may in time be Member of *Parliament*; for it ſeems to me very Natural, that he who has a Vote at Elections may himſelf alſo be a *Repreſentative*, if Choſen.

Obſ. Country man, this is worthy the Conſideration of Wiſer Heads than yours or mine. For if the *Clergy* may be made *Burgeſſes* of one *Corporation*, by a parity of Reaſon they may be made *Burgeſſes* of all the *Corporations* in the *Kingdom*; and as in many *Corporations* the *Honorary Freemen* out-Vote thoſe that are *Free* by *Servitude*, ſo the *Spiritual Burgeſſes* ſhall out-Vote the *Temporal*, and in proceſs of time, Our *Parliament* ſhall dwindle to a *Convocation*, and be no longer the Repreſentatives of the *People*, but of the *Clergy*.

We muſt have a great care of *Innovations*: *Irregular* and *Illegal Votes* may endanger our *Conſtitution*. Our Prudent Fore-Fathers could never make ſuch eſcapes from Reaſon, and the Intereſt of the Realm, as to allow our *Clergy* to be trebbly Repreſented. 1. In the *Houſe of Lords*, by the *Biſhops*. 2. In *Convocation*. And 3. In the *Houſe of Commons*, by Voting as *Freeholders* for the *County*, and as *Honorary Freemen* for the *Burroughs*.

Mercurius Politicus and the *Rehearſal*, may talk till their Hearts Ake about the *Dangers* of the *Church* from that Abuſe of the *High-Flying Tacking Clergy*, *Engliſhmen* will ſtill be *Engliſhmen*. And tho' we pay a Juſt Reſpect to the Function, yet thoſe Gentlemen muſt not think to Invade our Rights, and to chuſe Members for us, when they won't ſo much as ſuffer us to chuſe thoſe Miniſters that are to have the Care of our Souls.

Country-m. Mr. *Politicus*, and Mr. *Rehearſal* are a couple of Parlous Fellows; but the *Rehearſal* is a meer---I'll Towel him---I'll bear it no longer!

Obſ. What's the matter now?

Country-m. Maſter, there was never ſuch a *Bog-Trotting-Falſe-Loon*, Born upon Gods Earth; he makes me to be his *Country-man*, and ſays, That he has Converted me, a poor Nizy, that never had Sence enough to Convert or Confound an *Apple-Woman*. He has got ſome *Plough-Jobber* or other of the *Iriſh* Race, to Repreſent Me. Maſter, is not that Actionable, for a Fellow that never Drank any *October*, to take my Name upon him? I proteſt, Maſter, I'll Towel the *Rehearſal* and his *Country-man* too: He ſhan't think to Expoſe me Weekly in his naſty Libel.

Obſ. Thou hadſt better let it alone; go to Bed and Sleep away thy Paſſion.

Advertiſements.

On Monday *laſt was Publiſh'd*

THE Confuſion of Popery in *England*, or a Great and Divine Conviction of the Deceit and Impoſture of the Papal Agents here; that their Cauſe is Indefencable, their Profeſſion of Faith Heretical, and Terms of Communion Schiſmatical. For a Preface to the *Miſſionarium*, or Collection of Tracts and Papers lately written againſt them by the Author.

SToughton's Great Cordial Elixir, ſo often mentioned in the Gazette, (particularly in *Thurſdays November* the 8th) making the beſt Purl, in Beer or Ale, Purl Royal in Sack, and the bitter Draught in Water, Tea or White-Wine, in a Minute; prepared only by him, Apothecary, at the Unicorn in Southwark, ſet forth fourteen Years, and now ſo Famous throughout the three Kingdoms, and beyond Sea, for theſe two things, the *Stomach* and *Blood*; Rectifying the former from all its Indiſpoſitions, as Wind, Cholick, want of Appetite, Digeſtion, Sickneſs, Loathing, *&c.* and cleanſing the latter from all Impurities thereof, as Scurvy, Dropſie, Jaundice, Breakings out of the body, &c. opening all Inward Obſtructions, that the Author thinks it needleſs to ſay more of it, only, that it is Sold at his own Houſe, at ſeveral Bookſellers and Coffee-houſes in and about *London*, and at ſome one ſuch place in moſt Cities and great Towns in England, by Mr. *Blackwood*, at Edenburgh, Mr. *Raye* Dublin, 1*s* the Bottle, Wholeſale cheaper. ——Where it is not yet placed, any Shopkeeper that ſends firſt, may be ſupply'd, and room for good profit, many now Selling 20 or 30 Dozen a Year.

This is that Medicine which ſaved the Lives of ſo many Men at Jamaica, taken with Vomitings, Scorbutick Fluxes, *&c.* as appears by Certificate under the Hand of Captain *Reeſley*, of the *Bonadventure*, often mentioned in Print at large, and by which he ſo highly recommends it to all Perſons going to Sea. And I do verily believe, if it were taken into our Armies Abroad, and Fleet at Sea, eſpecially to the *Weſt-Indies*, and among the Negroes, where Scorbutick Fluxes ſo much Reign, it might ſave the Lives of Thouſands. A great many Captains of Ships having had Experience of it, will not now go to Sea without it, either they will take it themſelves, or their Surgeon ſhall.

The following things are Sold by J. How, *at the* Seven Stars *in* Talbot-Court, *in* Grace-Church-Street. All Sold by the Ream, Quire or Sheet.

1. BLank Labels for Apothecaries Gallipots, Glaſſes and Drawers, Curiouſly Engraven on a Copper-Plate, and Printed on Paper imitating Gold, and is not Inferiour to Painting and Gilding. They are likewiſe uſeful for *Druggiſts*, *Diſtillers*, *Grocers*, *Ironmongers*, *Confectioners*, and all other Perſons that uſe either Gallipots, Glaſſes or Drawers.
2. Directions for *Venice* Treacle-Pots.
3. Titles for Surgeons Cheſts.
4. Directions and Titles for *Hungaria*-Water.
5. Alphabets for Neſt of Drawers, either in Counting-Houſes, Shops or Ware-Houſes.
6. Directions for *Elixir Salutis*.
7. Directions for the Golden and Plain Spirits of *Scurvy-Graſs*.

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